

70 Years of Commitment to Rural America

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION.

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, approved 1935 (Public Resolution No. 11, 74th Congress), I hereby create an agency within the Government to be known as the Rural Electrification Administration, the head thereof to be known as Administrator.

I hereby prescribe the following duties and functions for the said Rural Electrification Administration to be exercised by the Administrator thereof to be hereafter appointed: To initiate, formulate, administer, and execute a program of approved projects with respect to the construction, transmission, and distribution of electric energy.

The White House,

May // , 1935.

April 30, 1935.

Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture



Having grown-up on a family farm in rural Iowa, I am especially grateful for the vision, commitment, and hard work of the men and women who brought electricity, safe and clean water, and vital facilities to small towns and farming communities across America.

We are truly the inheritors of a great legacy, and the custodians of a great trust. Few of our counterparts in 1935 could have anticipated the world in which we live today. While we cannot foresee the world our grandchildren will inherit, we can work to ensure a vibrant rural America for generations to come.

Gilbert G. Gonzalez
Under Secretary for Rural Development



Seventy years ago, in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt asserted a new federal role in rural America. His executive orders of April 30 and May 11, 1935 created two new agencies: the Resettlement Administration, concerned with economic recovery, and the Rural Electrification Administration. Today's USDA Rural Development is the inheritor of both missions.

Today, those years of dustbowl, Depression, and rural isolation are a fading memory — and in the long work of building a modern, prosperous rural America, the contributions of USDA Rural Development, its predecessor agencies, and their dedicated employees have been immense.

So as we celebrate this anniversary, let us pause to recall the rural America of 1935 — and thank once again all those whose efforts have built, and continue to build, a better future for all rural Americans.

9-5-PT25-A9



RELIEF FAMILIES AIDED

BY LOANS & GRANTS FROM THE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

FOR LIVESTOCK



FOR FARM
EQUIPMENT



FOR HOME
REPAIRS—



*Cognizant
of the past...*



*...committed
to the future.*





Agenda for 70th Anniversary Celebration

Music **Sam Morgan**, LAPAS
Ray Sheehan, Office of Ethics, USDA

National Anthem **Becky Vaughan**, Farm Service Agency

Welcome **Peter Thomas**, Administrator of Business-Cooperative Programs
Gilbert Gonzalez, Acting Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development

Keynote **Mike Johanns**, Secretary of Agriculture

Introductions **Peter Thomas**, Administrator for Business-Cooperative Programs
Curtis Anderson, Acting Administrator for Utilities Programs

Special Guests **Glenn English**, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
John Rose, Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small
Telecommunications Companies
Rob Johnson, National Rural Water State Associations

Closing Remarks **Russell Davis**, Administrator for Housing Programs

“God Bless America” **Becky Vaughan**, Farm Service Agency

A special thank you to all of the USDA Rural Development employees who played a role in planning and producing the 70th Anniversary Events.



70 Years of Commitment to Rural America

1935 Resettlement Administration
(Executive Order, April 30)
Rural Electrification Administration
(Executive Order, May 11)



1937 Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act
Water Facilities Act

Resettlement Administration joins USDA;
name changes to Farm Security Administration

1947 Farm Security Administration becomes Farmers Home
Administration

1954 Water Facilities Act expands from 17
Western States to national coverage.
Farm water systems begin to add
nonfarm rural customers.

Telephone Program 1949
Disaster Loan Act
Housing Act of 1949;
Single and multi-
family programs.

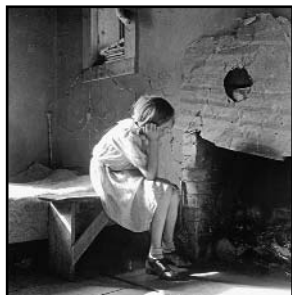


Consolidated Farmers Home Administration Act ("Con Act") 1961
Increased loan limits; extended water program to all rural residents.
Housing Act amended to include nonfarm rural residents.

1936 Rural Electrification Act

1935 1945 1955 1965

1972 Rural Development Act of 1972 creates Rural Development Service
Business and Industry Loan and Grant Program
Community Facilities Program



1985 Intermediary Relending Program

1990 Rural Economic Development Act

Credit Reform

Rural Development Administration
formed



1994 USDA Reorganization

Agricultural Cooperative
Service joins Rural
Development

Today's Rural
Development is created.

1971 Rural Telephone Bank



1990 Rural Economic Development Act

Distance Learning and Telemedicine
Programs

2002 Renewable Energy
and Broadband Program

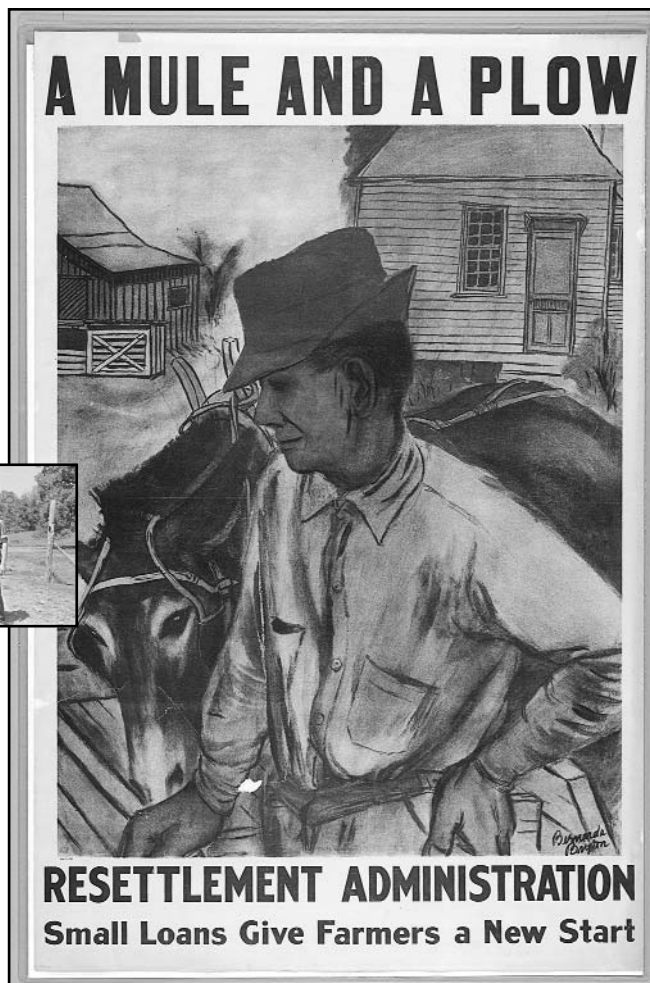


1975

1985

1995

2005



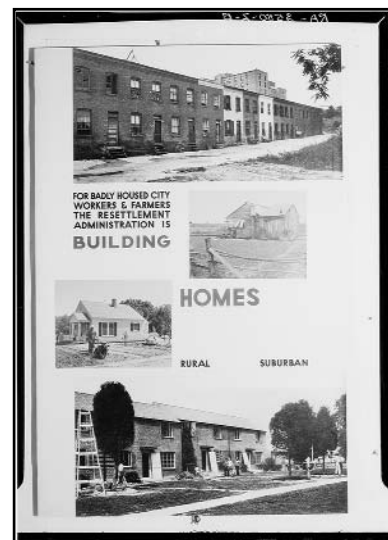
Housing and Community Facilities

In 1935, FDR created the Resettlement Administration, one of many “alphabet soup” New Deal agencies. Many disappeared. This one did not.

Over the years, the names changed — the Resettlement Administration ... the Farm Security Administration ... the Farmers Home Administration ... Rural Development — but the mission remained, and grew.

As the name suggests, the Resettlement Administration was concerned with much more than agricultural stabilization. While it did provide low interest loans to farmers—a program which became a principal function of its successors—it also sponsored model communities, built schools, purchased land for conservation, constructed migrant worker camps, and resettled displaced farmers and poor urban residents on “subsistence homesteads.”

Not all of these early experiments succeeded, but from the crisis of the Depression era emerged the Farm Security and Farmers Home Administrations, the immediate precursors to today’s Rural Housing Program. After seven decades, providing economic opportunity, affordable housing and vital community facilities to rural America remains at the core of the Rural Development mission.



Utilities

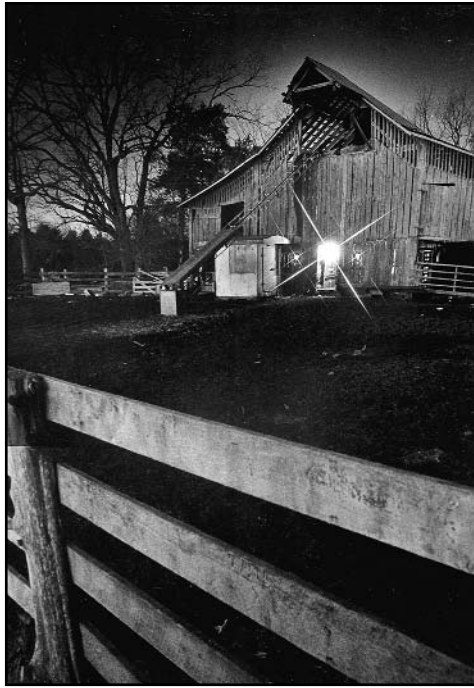
“The night the lights came on” is an iconic memory in rural America. None who lived through that moment have ever forgotten it. Nor has USDA Rural Development, which – 70 years after the first switch was thrown – is still turning on the lights in rural communities across the nation.

Since 1935, the mission has expanded. The Rural Electrification Administration added a telephone program in 1949. The Rural Telephone Bank was created in 1971. The distance learning and telemedicine initiatives date from 1990.

Four years later, the new Rural Development organization absorbed both REA and the water programs formerly administered by the Farmers Home and Rural Development Administrations. The rural broadband program was added in 2002.

Needs and missions evolve, but the commitment remains. The survival of rural communities, the quality of rural housing, the viability of rural businesses ... it all starts with infrastructure.

And thanks to Rural Development, the lights will keep coming on in rural communities across America.



Economic Development

The Rural Business and Cooperative programs of today are relatively young, but their roots run back to the earliest days of the cooperative movement as well as the several business and community facilities programs developed over the years by the Farmers Home Administration.



While scattered, small cooperatives have existed in America for over 200 years, the “Magna Carta” of the cooperative movement was the Capper-Volstead Act, enacted in 1922. The ensuing decades saw dramatic growth in producer, farm equipment, and marketing coops, working closely with USDA’s Farmer Cooperative Service and, later, the Agricultural Cooperative Service.

The increasing diversification of the rural economy, however, meant that a narrow focus on the farm economy was not enough. In response, the Farmers Home Administration gradually expanded its lending portfolio to include community facilities and rural businesses.

In 1994, Rural Development’s business and cooperative programs assumed their current form. They now provide a flexible portfolio of lending programs designed to meet the needs of a rapidly diversifying rural business sector.



“I had seen first-hand the grim drudgery and grind which had been the common lot of eight generations of American farm women. I had seen the tallow candle in my own home, followed by the coal-oil lamp. I knew what it was to take care of the farm chores by the flickering, undependable light of the lantern in the mud and cold rains of the fall, and the snow and icy winds of winter.

I had seen the cities gradually acquire a night as light as day.

I could close my eyes and recall the innumerable scenes of the harvest and the unending punishing tasks performed by hundreds of thousands of women, growing old prematurely; dying before their time; conscious of the great gap between their lives and the lives of those whom the accident of birth or choice placed in the towns and cities.

Why shouldn't I have been interested in the emancipation of hundreds of thousands of farm women?”

Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska,
Cosponsor of the Rural Electrification Act





Committed to the future of rural communities.

Vision:

A rural America that is a healthy, safe,
and prosperous place in which to live and work.

Mission:

To increase economic opportunity
and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL ELECTRICITY ADMINISTRATION.

By virtue of my authority vested in me under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, approved April 8, 1935 (Public Resolution No. 11, 74th Congress), I hereby establish an agency within the Government, and appoint [Name] as its first Administrator, to be known as the Rural Electricity Administration.